



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Public Instruction  
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

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\*\*\* NEWS RELEASE \*\*\*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DPI 2008-57

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

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## Wisconsin receives a five year, \$3.5 million grant from the CDC

*Funding will support coordinated school health programs*

MADISON—State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster announced that the Department of Public Instruction, in partnership with the Department of Health and Family Services, successfully competed for a five year, \$3.5 million grant from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The grant will support Wisconsin efforts to promote physical activity, nutrition, and coordinated school health programs, to prevent HIV and tobacco use, and to conduct the Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

“Success in school is intertwined with health. Schools cannot achieve their educational mission if a student is not healthy and ready to learn,” said Burmaster. “Unfortunately, many students today are dealing with health issues that interfere with their ability to succeed academically. This grant will support programs to help our students make healthy choices.”

Poor nutrition, lack of physical activity, obesity, and tobacco use are some of the health issues that can interfere with a child’s learning. In recent studies, 20 percent of Wisconsin high school students reported smoking a cigarette in the past month. Poor diets and physical inactivity are pushing rates of overweight and obesity among the nation’s children to record levels. Among Wisconsin high school students, 24 percent are either overweight or obese.

“Schools play a vital role in addressing the obesity epidemic and improving health by promoting and supporting good nutrition, physical activity, and avoidance of tobacco use among children,” said Wisconsin State Health Officer Dr. Sheri Johnson. “This grant will help us continue the good work of many established partnerships striving to improve the health of everyone in Wisconsin.”

In addition to the \$2,124,615 for the coordinated school health programs, another major component of the grant includes \$1,250,000 for HIV prevention efforts. The funds will provide school districts and individual schools with tools, resources, training materials, professional development, consultation, follow-up support, and evaluation services to assist with the implementation of effective policies and practices to prevent and reduce sexual risk behaviors among students that contribute to HIV infection. The grant also includes \$249,710 to conduct the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) in the state. The YRBS assesses the health and well-being of high school students to inform the development of programs and intervention strategies that can help future students achieve greater success.

(more)

“Our New Wisconsin Promise is working to provide a quality education for all children in Wisconsin so that they can become successful, contributing members of our society,” said Burmaster. “This grant will help us achieve our goal by providing our students, schools, and communities with resources that will help everyone make healthier choices.”

The Wisconsin grant application was one of 23 funded by the CDC. Other partners involved in the coordinated school health programs include the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health, UW-La Crosse, UW-Oshkosh, UW-River Falls, UW-Stevens Point, the Wisconsin Partnership for Activity and Nutrition, the Governor’s Council on Physical Fitness and Health, The Counseling Center of Milwaukee, Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, and the state’s cooperative educational service agencies.

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**NOTE:** This news release is available electronically at [http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2008\\_57.pdf](http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2008_57.pdf). More information about the coordinated school health program can be found at <http://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/cshp.html>.